

HOUSE BILL 2829

By Parkinson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 51 and Title 49, relative to grants by local government entities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 51, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) In order to promote the public health, safety, morals, general welfare, security, prosperity, and contentment of the residents within the boundaries of a local government, a local government or local education agency may create a program to incentivize eligible professionals to live and work within the boundaries of the local government by providing grants to an eligible professional in an amount that is equal to the amount of property tax due on the eligible professional's principal residence.

(b) Prior to implementing a program created under subsection (a), the local government or local education agency shall obtain approval of the program by the comptroller of the treasury.

(c) The comptroller of the treasury shall evaluate a program submitted for approval under subsection (b) to ensure that:

- (1) The program complies with the constitution of this state;
- (2) The program's eligibility criteria are reasonable and equitable; and
- (3) The program has clawback provisions in order to reclaim funds if the recipient moves outside the boundaries of the local government, no longer works within the boundaries of the local government, or otherwise fails to meet eligibility requirements for the program.

(d) A recipient of a grant from a program created under this section shall use the grant to offset the expenses of living within the boundaries of the local government. For each year that a recipient receives such a grant, the recipient shall provide an itemized accounting of expenditures made utilizing the grant funds to the granting authority on or before the date on which real property taxes are due.

(e) As used in this section, "eligible professionals" means medical professionals, police officers, firefighters, and teachers.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.